

**Village of Camillus  
Regular Meeting  
April 6, 2015**

Present: Mayor Patricia Butler  
Trustee Ann Eckert  
Trustee Helen Kiggins Walsh  
Trustee Martin Rinaldo  
Trustee Susan Hines (absent)

Attorney: Robert J. Allan

8 people in attendance

Mayor Butler opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. with the "Pledge of Allegiance".

**Camillus Fire Department**

President Cheryl Hutchins stated she has applications for new members. One applicant was not recommended for membership after research of his membership with a previous fire department. Mayor Butler stated the Board will review all the applications in Executive Session.

President Hutchins stated she, Chief James McBride, Chief Sam Maxsween, Treasurer Martin Rinaldo and Lieutenant Erich Cole recently attended a Fire/Ems legal presentation at the Turning Stone Conference Center. This conference offered various classes and was very informational. Some changes are planned for the fire department such as stronger operating guidelines, updated by-laws, LOSAP updates and record keeping among others.

Chief McBride stated at the end of March, the fire department was activated for a total of 127 calls.

Chief McBride advised that Engine 5 has repairs that need to be addressed. The rear suspension needed work. Chief McBride advised that this apparatus needs to be replaced soon. Mayor Butler stated a discussion should be had to review all options for this vehicle and to estimate its value. Attorney Allan asked what type of vehicle Engine 5 is. Chief McBride stated it is a pumper truck with a 55 foot aerial ladder on it. Mayor Butler advised that if the apparatus is good enough to fetch a decent selling price then it is most likely still good enough to use. Chief McBride stated \$10,000 was set aside for maintenance costs for this apparatus and most of it has already been used. This vehicle barely passed inspection. Mayor Butler stated a committee should be formed to address this vehicle as part of a 5 year plan.

On April 25 & 26, 2015 the fire department will be hosting a Recruit NY Open House weekend event. Demonstrations and different organizations will be on hand.

The calendar drive has had a positive response from the recruitment letters that were included.

Mayor Butler stated she knows that OSHA training was offered March 30 & 31, 2015. Mayor Butler stated she saw that this class was well attended by members and Explorers.

Mayor Butler asked if the class had been held with Mike Huppman. Chief McBride stated yes. This class had nearly 80 members from Camillus, Fairmount and Howlett Hill fire departments.

Mayor Butler asked if there would be debriefing and counseling when the fire department responds to a critical and stressful call. Chief McBride stated Onondaga County has personnel that will respond and counsel for stressful situations. Also, a pastor at the new Memphis Church offered his services in that situation. He may serve as the new department Chaplain.

Chief McBride stated a change will have to be implemented within the fire department regarding active and inactive members. For insurance reasons, all members need to be listed as active members and can be classified as retired, auxiliary, etc. Explorers also cannot respond to any active fire scene, per the attorneys at the legal conference recently attended.

Mayor Butler asked the board if they had any questions for Chief McBride and President Hutchins. None were asked.

Mayor Butler asked the public if there were any questions. Mr. Richard Waterman asked what the replacement cost is for Engine 5. Chief McBride stated this is a special piece of apparatus and at today's cost would be priced around \$750,000-\$800,000.

Mayor Butler thanked the officers of the Camillus Fire Department for their report.

### **Code Enforcement**

Code Enforcement officers Bill Reagan and Mark Taylor were both in attendance. Mr. Reagan stated there were 3 building permits (2 were approved), 6 building inspections, 14 fire inspections, 8 complaint inspections, 19 violation inspections, 4 notices and letters were sent (6 more were sent today), 3 meetings attended and 7 other miscellaneous actions in the month. The two building permits issued had permit fees worth \$1,590.00 with the value of the projects estimated at \$304,000.

Mr. Reagan stated the Green Gate rebuild project was one of the permits and the repairs are estimated around \$300,000. The owners are now looking to create an egress stairway from the second floor. The owners plan to convert the second floor to office space and a conference area. A final change of use will come before the Board if it does change. Mayor Butler asked if the second floor will be wheelchair accessible. Mr. Reagan stated that this is not required but he has suggested it to the owners to reserve a space so it may be added in the future. The code states that if the service offered on the second floor is the same as the first floor, then wheelchair accessibility is not required. The owners are still going over their options for the use of the second floor. Code Enforcement Officer Mark Taylor stated that the owners are not replacing the rooms on the second floor due to the costs of plumbing repairs. Mr. Taylor stated that the original building is still very solid. He stated the firefighters that fought the fire recently did an excellent job.

Mr. Reagan stated he and Mr. Taylor recently attended NY State Code Update training. This also included in depth deck construction training and new residential home sprinkler system requirements.

Mr. Reagan stated when homes add additions that use truss construction or have new homes built with trusses, a placard needs to be added to the utility meter on the home to alert firefighters in the case of a fire.

Mr. Reagan stated more training is planned in September.

Mayor Butler asked if he visited the home on Maxwell regarding a fence complaint. Mr. Reagan stated he dealt with this issue a couple months ago. Mayor Butler and the Clerk advised him that another complaint was called in to Village Hall today and an email was sent to him. Mr. Reagan stated the dogs are getting loose from the yard due to the fence needing repair and that the homeowner can call the police for safety issues. He advised will contact the complainant.

The Clerk stated that a homeowner called from 26 Elm Street stating her home was a one family, not the two family that is noted in the tax roll. Code Enforcer Reagan stated he will inspect the house soon to verify the home.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Butler asked the Board if they had any questions or concerns regarding the minutes from the Board Meeting on March 16, 2015. None were asked.

Upon the motion of Trustee Rinaldo and seconded by Trustee Walsh and unanimously approved, the Board approved the meeting minutes from March 16, 2015.

### **APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Mayor Butler asked the Board if there were any questions regarding payment of the vouchers. None were asked.

Upon the motion of Trustee Walsh and seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved by the Board, Abstract #006 was approved as follows:

General Fund	\$56,050.86
--------------	-------------

### **Mayor's Announcements**

Mayor Butler reported the next scheduled Board meeting will be on April 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Butler advised the Board that as of March 30, 2015 Susan Hines resigned from the Board of Trustees as Trustee due to illness.

Mayor Butler presented the Board with a press release for the 2015-2016 State Budget from NYCOM if anyone is interested in reviewing the budget.

A letter of thanks was sent by OCRRA to the Village for signing a contract to continue using OCRRA for its waste. This resulted in tremendous savings for their bond debt with regarding to the high Standard and Poor's rating of their agency.

Mayor Butler asked if anyone is interested in marching with her in the Memorial Day parade in May. Mr. Reagan stated he would like to be reminded of this because he may be available to attend with his children.

The next Mayor's Association meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in Minoa, NY. The Mayor of the City of Syracuse, Stephanie Minor, will be the guest speaker. Mayor Butler invited the Trustees to attend. Trustee Rinaldo stated he will attend this meeting with Mayor Butler.

Mayor Butler recently attended a Onondaga County Mayor's Meeting and the Land Bank was discussed. This organization transfers ownership of abandoned homes from banks so they may be sold again. Mayor Butler reported there are currently four abandoned homes in the Village at the following addresses: 8 Elderkin Avenue, 23 Elderkin, 9 Leroy Street and 53 North Street

Mr. Reagan stated he will soon be checking on the status of the possibly empty home on Elm Street.

Mayor Butler and Trustee Rinaldo will be checking in further regarding these abandoned homes and will be contacting the Land Bank for possible assistance. The Clerk stated she will collect the names of the banks that own these homes.

The Clerk advised that 7 Genesee Street is also empty. Mr. Reagan stated that this home is a different situation. The owner of that home lives in the Village.

Mr. Reagan stated the four abandoned homes cannot be taken for back taxes because the taxes are current by the escrow banks. The homes are in foreclosure for years because of the sheer number of them.

Attorney Allan stated that the banks can assign the mortgages to the Land Bank to help speed up the process. Mr. Reagan advised to take this suggestion to the Land Bank. Trustee Rinaldo stated he will contact the Land Bank representative.

Mayor Butler reported that Engineer Bill Morse has asked the Board if they wish to have a fixed price proposal or to bill at his hourly rates regarding the First Street road improvement project. Mayor Butler stated that she believes the Board should choose the hourly rate. The previous improvement projects have been at flat rates. Mayor Butler stated she will contact Mr. Morse to ask for his hourly rate.

Trustee Walsh stated some neighbors are concerned that the improvement project for First Street will only consist of patching problem areas. Mayor Butler stated no.

Mayor Butler reported there is an increase in CHIPS funding. The Village of Camillus will be receiving \$3,384.81 more in local aid for this year. This is to help offset road repairs after the harsh winter. Mayor Butler commented that Senator DeFrancisco deserved thanks for his assistance in this increase.

### **Attorney Comments**

Attorney Allan reported that Attorney Jeff Davis is in attendance and that a letter has been given to the Trustees and Mayor regarding the building owned by Michael Montero located at 69 Genesee Street. The deed to this property dates back to around 1925. This building is actually longer than what is listed in the deed. This building encroaches on to the right-of-way on Mechanic Street by a 20 x 10 foot strip of area. Attorney Allan suggested the Village Board clear this deed so that Mr. Montero may sell this property.

Mayor Butler agreed that this option is the best. Attorney Allan stated this action can be taken fairly quickly. Attorney Allan advised he will take the lead on this to clear the deed for sale.

Mayor Butler stated the Board shall move ahead with a Public Hearing to deem this area no longer needed. Attorney Allan stated he will draw the Public Notice and have it ready hopefully by May 4, 2015.

Upon the motion of Mayor Patricia Butler and seconded by Trustee Walsh and unanimously approved, the Board agreed to proceed with a Public Hearing for May 4, 2015 at 6:00 PM in order to clear the deed for 69 Genesee Street.

### **Old Business**

Mayor Butler stated the Village Highway personnel, Trustees and a representative from the fire department were previously asked to view the property at 48 North Street regarding the request of a handicap ramp to be built. Mayor Butler stated the discussion is open. Trustee Walsh stated she is concerned about the steep bank. Trustee Rinaldo stated the ramp would be on Village property and liability is a concern. Attorney Allan stated a revocable license can be used in that case. Mayor Butler asked if this ramp would interfere with access by sidewalk. Mr. Reagan stated it would not interfere with the public sidewalk. Attorney Allan suggested picking one area for a handicap ramp for all access by wheelchairs. Mayor Butler asked who will be responsible for snow removal and safety of the ramp. Mr. Reagan and Attorney Allan stated that responsibility will need to be on the agency that builds the ramp. Attorney Allan stated this issue will be tabled for now for more research.

### **New Business**

Mayor Butler stated the Village needs to replace 35 American flags and poles. The cost, out of pocket, would be \$1,785.00 for the 3 x 5 foot flags. She is still researching other options in order to reduce this cost. A decision will need to be made soon in order to get them ordered and paid.

Mayor Butler stated that NY State DOT was contacted regarding safety issues when pedestrians use the crosswalk from Genesee Street to Elm Street/Rt. 174. There have been some near misses regarding pedestrians and cars. The NYS DOT will soon be placing more signage for pedestrian safety.

Mayor Butler asked the Board to consider setting a Public Hearing soon for the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption.

Upon the motion of Mayor Butler and seconded by Trustee Walsh and unanimously approved, the Board agreed to schedule a Public Hearing on May 4, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Attorney Allan asked if this exemption has been prepared and is ready for adoption. Mayor Butler stated the Village Board has not seen it yet and asked if this should be delayed. Attorney Allan stated a delay is not necessary.

### **Trustee Reports**

Trustee Rinaldo stated he will ask the highway personnel for more cones for placement on the sidewalks on Leroy and First Street. Some of the concrete is missing and is due for repair. These cones can help pedestrians avoid the areas in the meantime.

Trustee Eckert stated the Town of Camillus has crosswalk signs that may be more visible that are made at the town highway department. Mayor Butler stated she will have Gary Martin look into the signs if

they are something the Village may use. Trustee Eckert reported that these signs can stay up all year long.

Trustee Eckert stated April 15, 2015 is the next Memorial Day Parade meeting.

Mayor Butler stated funds have been budgeted in order to hire the sweeping company. Chief McBride stated in the past the CFD washed the parade route the morning of the parade. Mayor Butler stated she will speak with Gary Martin if the Village wishes to use the fire department to wash the streets. Mr. Reagan stated for storm water concerns, the streets should be cleaned of the debris and not have it washed down the storm drains.

Upon the motion of Mayor Butler and seconded by Trustee Walsh and unanimously approved, the Board agreed to hire the same company that street swept the Village streets in 2014 before Memorial Day on May 25, 2015.

### **Public Comments**

Mayor Butler asked the public if they have any questions or comments. There were none.

Mayor Butler moved the meeting into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. to discussed personnel matters. Mayor Butler requested the fire department members stay during Executive Session.

The meeting moved out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

Upon the motion of Mayor Butler and seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved, the Board agreed to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Tina Groesbeck  
Sharon Norcross, Clerk/Treasurer